Uniqueness of A Sexual Assault Victim

Carla Jackson, RN

BCEN, TNS, SANE-A

- WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT HAPPENS!!!!

Law enforcement

Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement will get a brief statement to assist them in evidence collection at the scene.

EMS Personnel

- The EMS personnel are trained to get a brief history.
- Treat any life threatening emergencies.
- Their early role is very important in the victim's recovery.

The Hospital

SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER (SANE)

Meet the needs of the sexual assault victim by providing immediate, compassionate, culturally sensitive, and comprehensive forensic evaluation and treatment.

UAMS SANE Program

- Committed to providing comprehensive and compassionate care to adult and adolescent victims of sexual assault—

  24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year.

  Located in UAMS Emergency Department with continuous emergency physician backup.

SANE Examination

- First things first:
  - Life support and stabilization
  - Triage
  - Private room
  - SANE
    - Assaulted within past 72 hours
    - **Exceptions:** Children, excessive trauma or kidnapping

Patient consent needed for:

- Medical legal examination for evidence related to the sexual assault
- Consent for release of the information to authorities and qualified persons

Patient consent needed for:

- Consent for patient advocate to attend.
- And any other procedures as directed by local needs such as emergency contraceptive or photographs.

Patient history:

- Name of the patient or person giving the information
- Document the relationship and why they are giving the information rather than the patient.

- Was there an interpreter present? If so who and what language.

Victim's demographic information

- Victims name
- Hospital ID number
- Address
- City, state
- Phone number
- Age, gender, ethnicity,date of birth, race
- Date/time of arrival, examination and discharge

Forensic Interview

- Professional and empathetic approach to helping the victim overcome her feelings of fear, guilt and anger.
- Dealing with 3 personalities: the **victim, perpetrator and self.**
- Must express regret that the victim was assaulted.

Forensic Interview

- Assure the victim that they were a victim of a crime and that it is not their fault.
- Reassure them that they are safe.
- **Bad choices are not illegal: Rape is**

Victim's Demeanor

- Controlled (guarded): Appear composed and able to calmly discuss the assault.
- State of shock or physically exhausted.
- Tearful, agitated, angry and/or just quiet.

Pertinent medical history:

- Last normal menstrual period. The use of tampons,sponges, diapers and sanitary napkins can absorb all the offender’s semen as well the menstrual blood present. This may also help explain if blood is present on the swabs obtained.

Pertinent medical history:

- Document if the victim has had any recent anogential injuries, operations, or medical treatment that may affect the physical findings.

Actions of victims before assault:

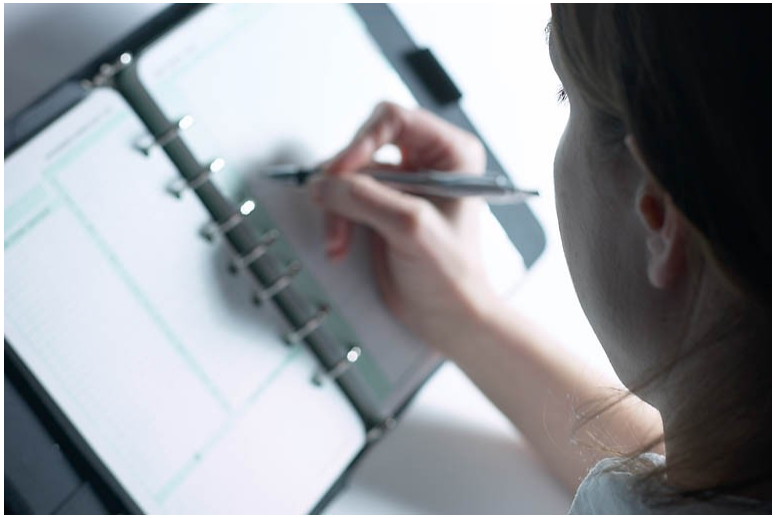
- Actions before the assault can sometimes destroy the evidence that is left: for example a recent douche could destroy the sperm.

Pertinent history related to encounter:

- Last consensual sexual encounter. This becomes inportant if it has been in the last week. The crime lab may find two different blood types, so this could help clear up any discrepancies in court.
- Was there any drug or alcohol use before or after the assault.

TEST

- This will take about 2-5 minutes.



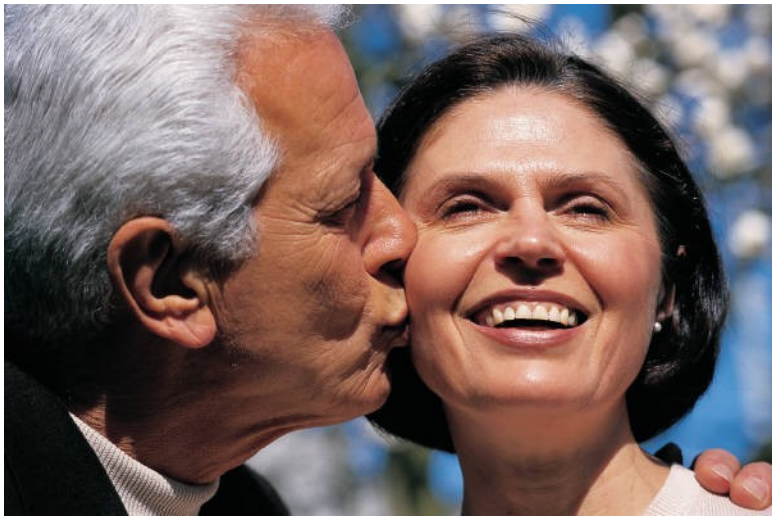
Think of your best sexual encounter?

Where were you and who else was there?

What did you hear?

What did you smell?

Who said what and in what order?



What acts occurred and in what order oral, vaginal or rectal?

Did ejaculation occur and if so how many times?

How did it end? Who said what?

Who wants to share their story first?

Assault history:

- Date of assault and time of assault
- Any physical surrounds of the assault the victim can recall such as a building or landmarks.
- Need a brief description of the event that is accurate. This is crucial to the proper collection, detection and analysis of physical evidence.

Assault history:

- Lapse of consciousness during or after the assault.
- Nongenital injuries, pain or bleeding.
- Genital injury, pain or bleeding
- Verbal coercion such as fear of injury.

Assault history:

- Whenever possible, directly quote the victim's statement, ex: "He pointed a gun and said suck this or I will kill you."
- Slang and certain "words" may be hard to, but it may convey the state of mind of the victim and attacker.

Excited Utterance

- Statements made while being treated in an urgent setting such as emergency room may be interpreted as “excited utterance.”
- In most states these statements are allowed within the court and are not considered medical hearsay.

Description of acts:

- On all acts document whether penis, finger or foreign object was used.
- Document the following:
- Penetration of the labia

Description of acts:

- Penetration of the anus
- Oral copulation of genitals or anus
- Nongenital injuries such as biting, licking or kissing

Description of the Acts

- Did ejaculation occur? If yes note location vulva, anus, body surface, clothing, bedding, mouth or other.
- There are certain contraceptives that can interfere with accurate interpretation of the preliminary chemical lab test.

Description of the Acts

- Lubricants of any kind including oil or grease are trace evidence and may be compared to potential sources left at the crime scene or recovered from the offender's body.

Description of the Acts

- Knowing whether a condom was used may be helpful in explaining the lack of sperm.
- Any injuries by the victim to the offender

Actions of victims after the assault:

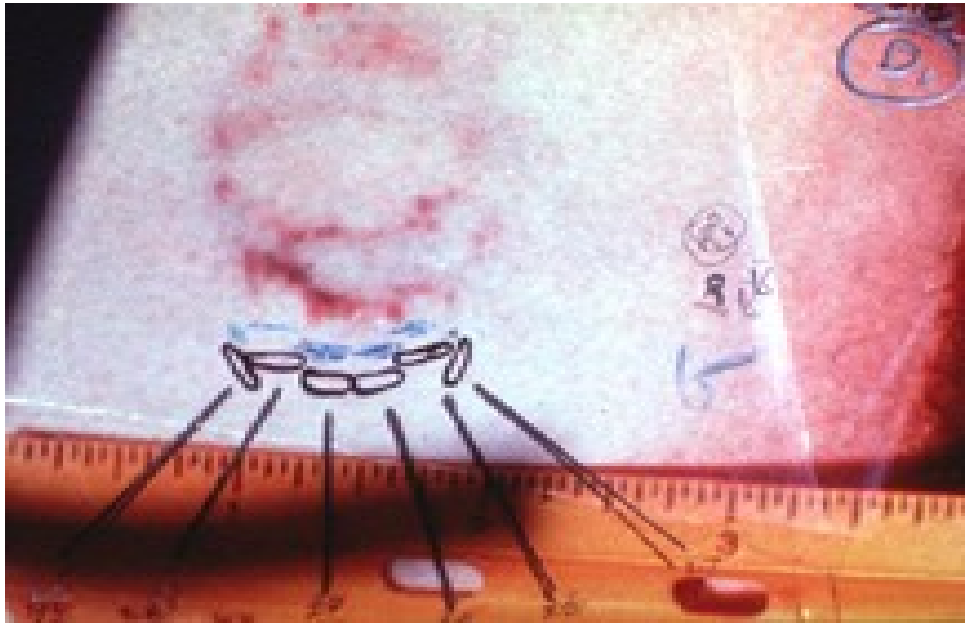
- The quality of the evidence is greatly affected by the events taking place after the assault. Events such as bathing, washing or even brushing their hair.
- Trace evidence such as foreign hair, plant material or other fiber may be lost.

Physical finding:

- Vital signs
- Date and time of examination
- General appearance
- Description of clothing on arrival
- Document findings using body surface maps.

Physical Exam

- May find bite marks.



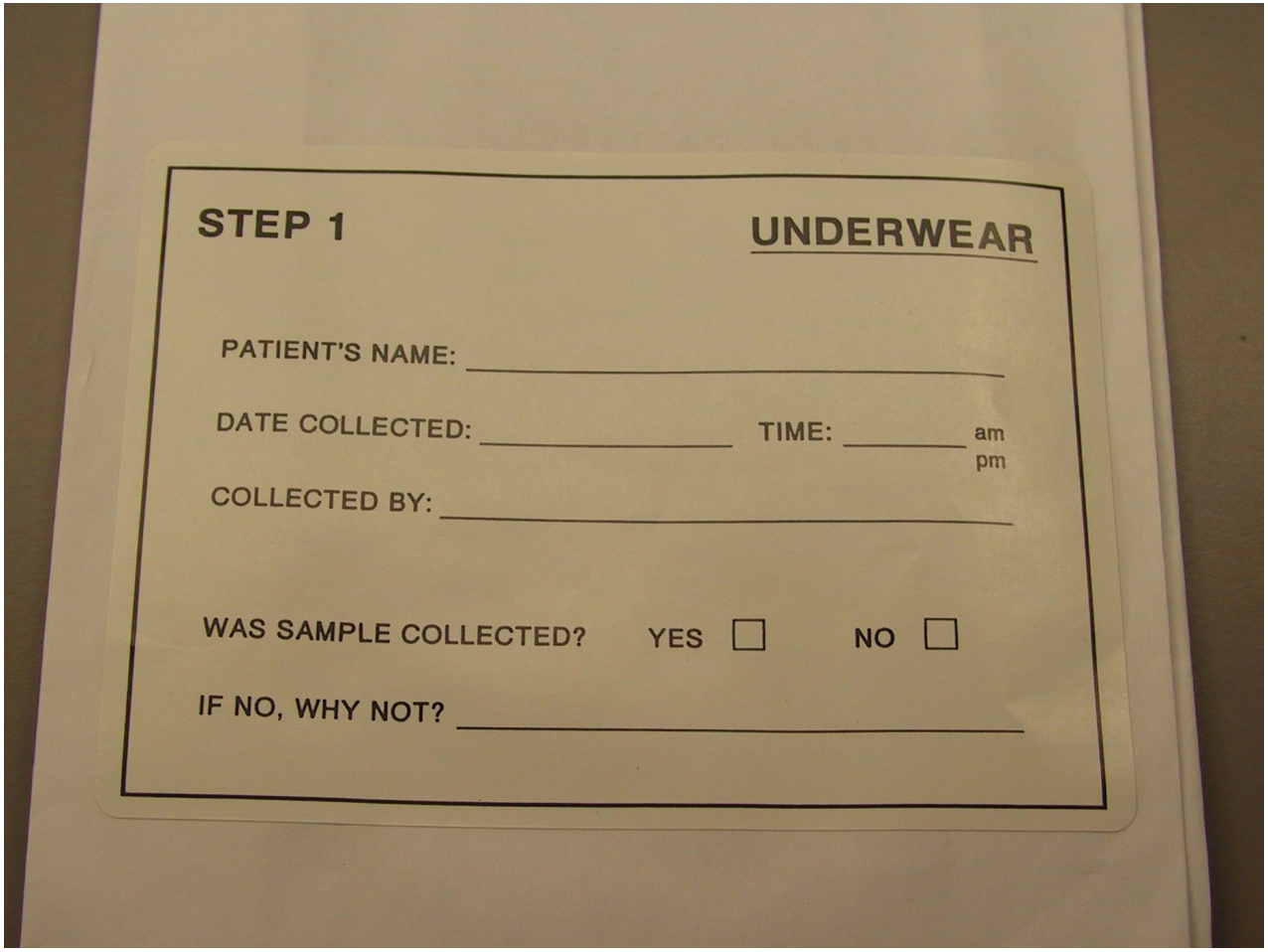
- There may be other injuries.

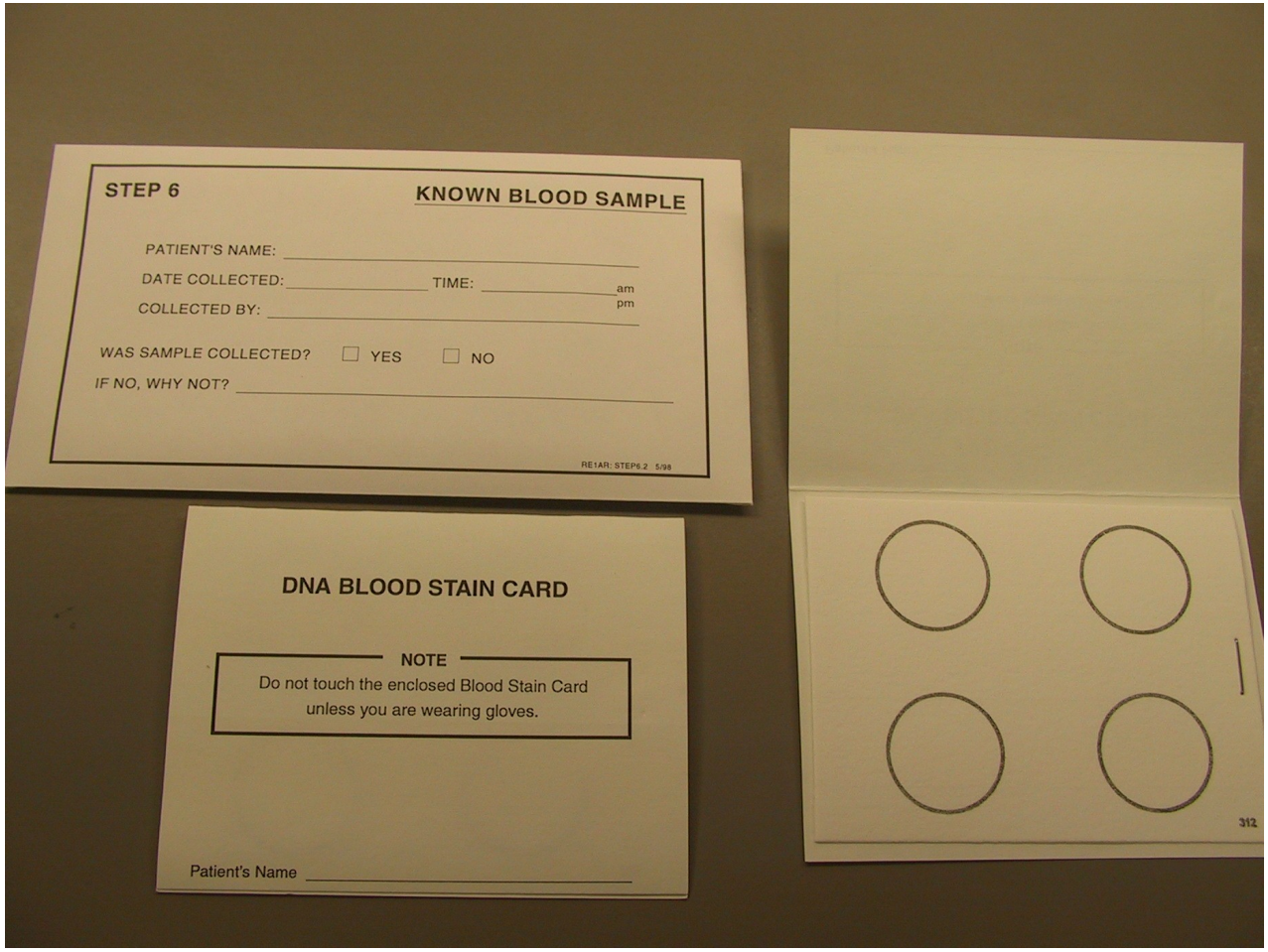
Lab

- Urine dip and UPT are the only that will done in the emergency dept. unless there are reasons to add further lab.

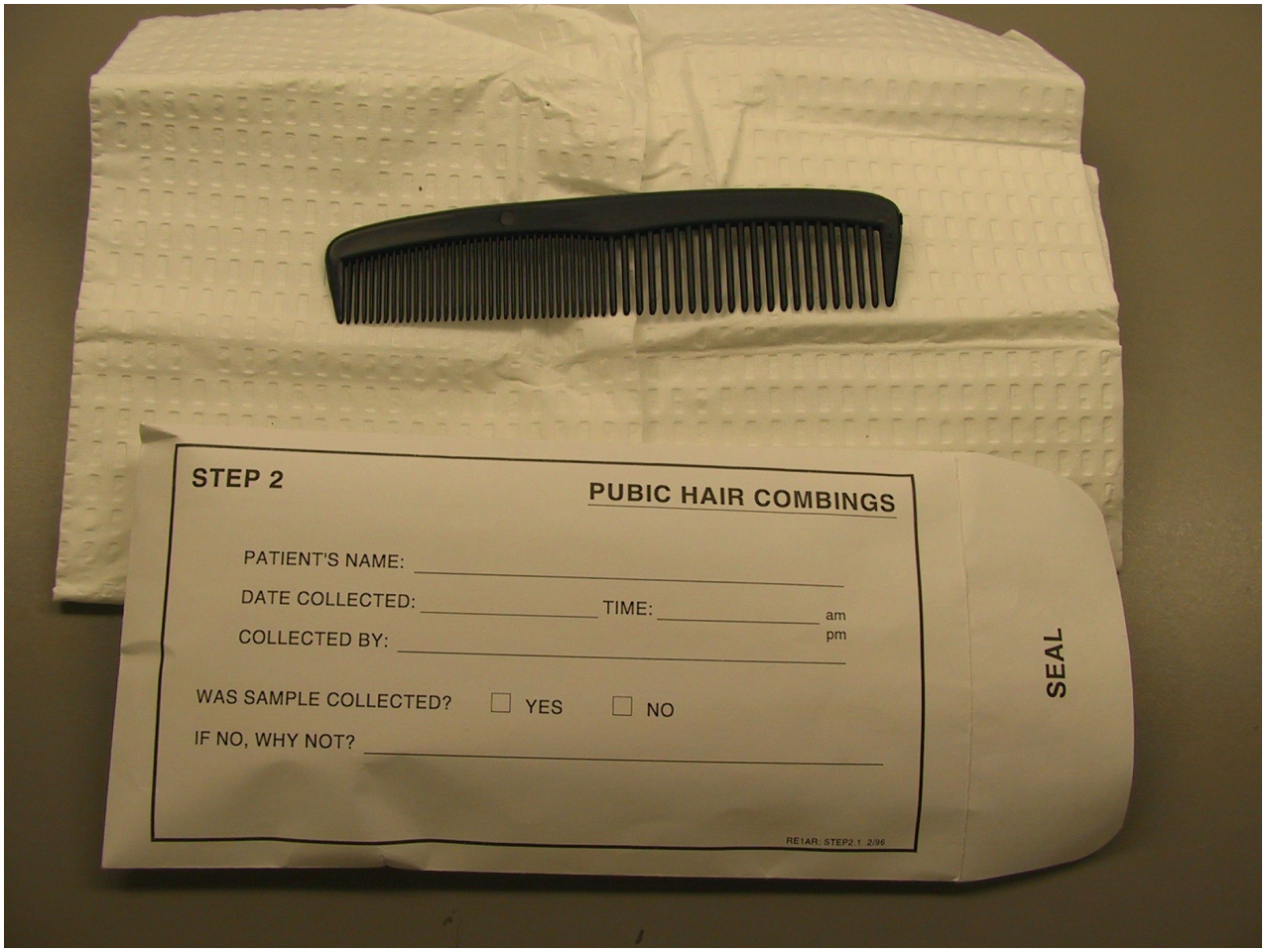
General Assessment

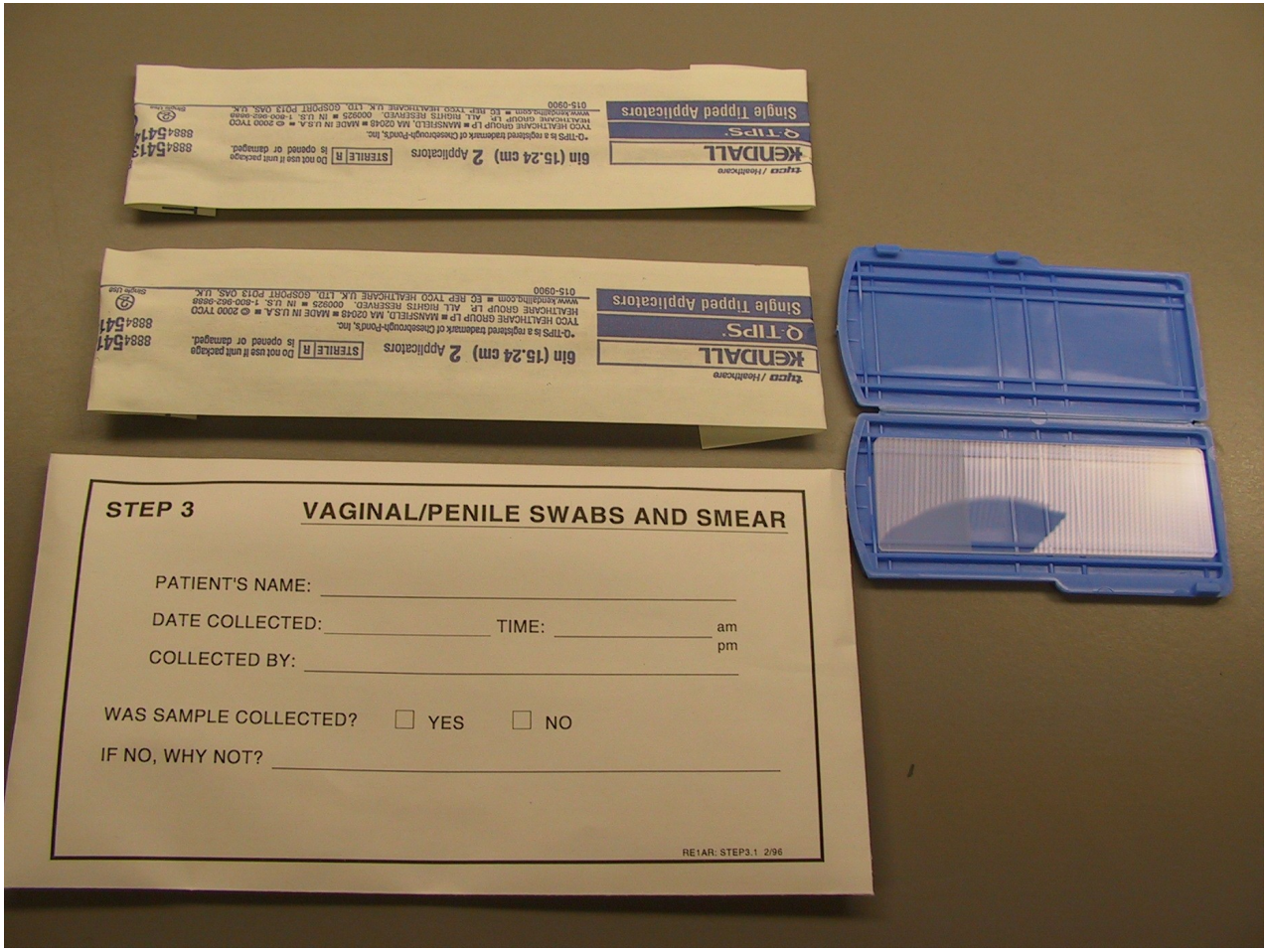
Evidence Collection Kit

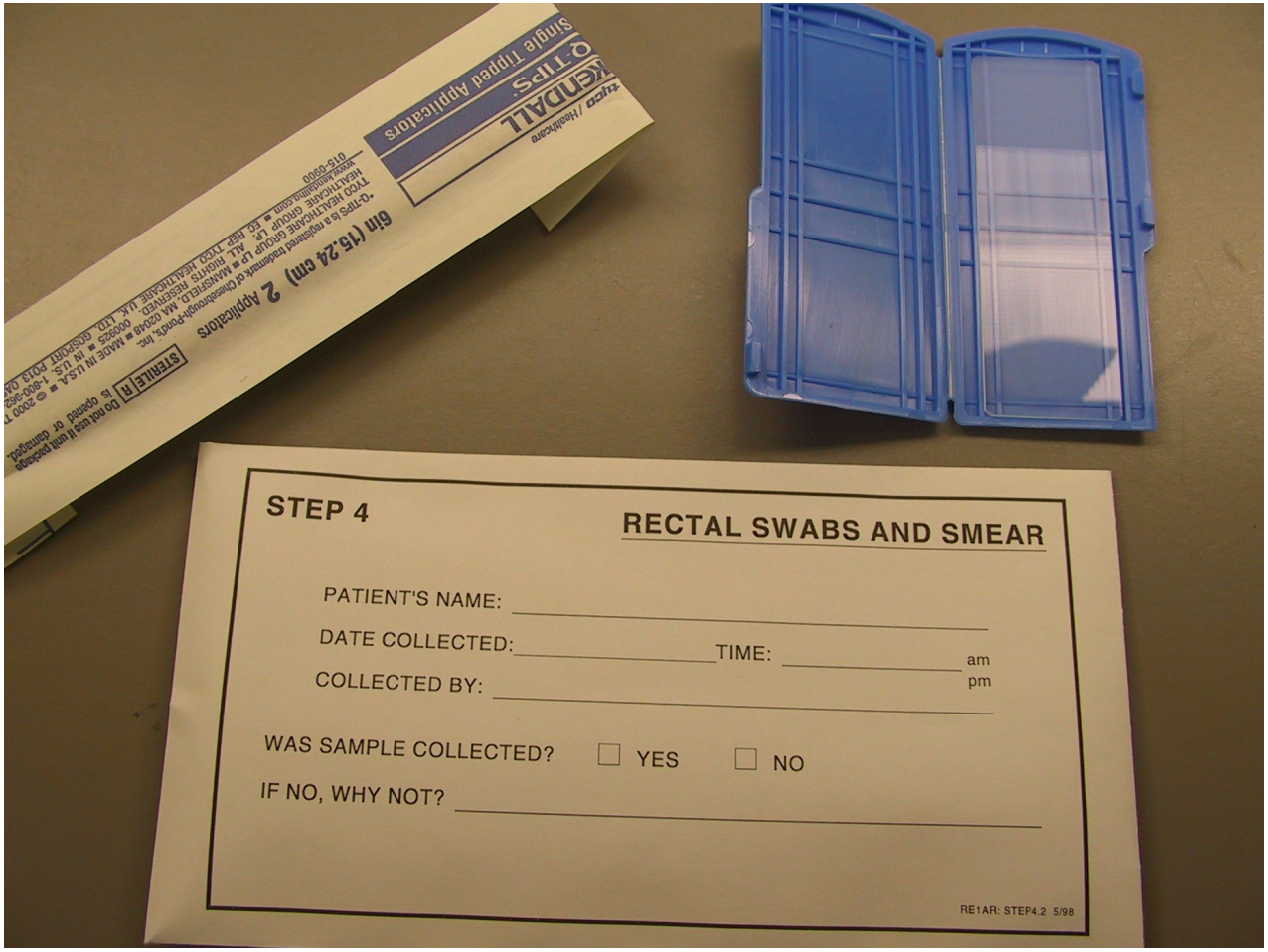

STEP 1
UNDERWEAR
PATIENT'S NAME: _____
DATE COLLECTED: _____ TIME: _____ am pm
COLLECTED BY: _____
WAS SAMPLE COLLECTED? YES ☐ NO ☐
IF NO, WHY NOT? _____

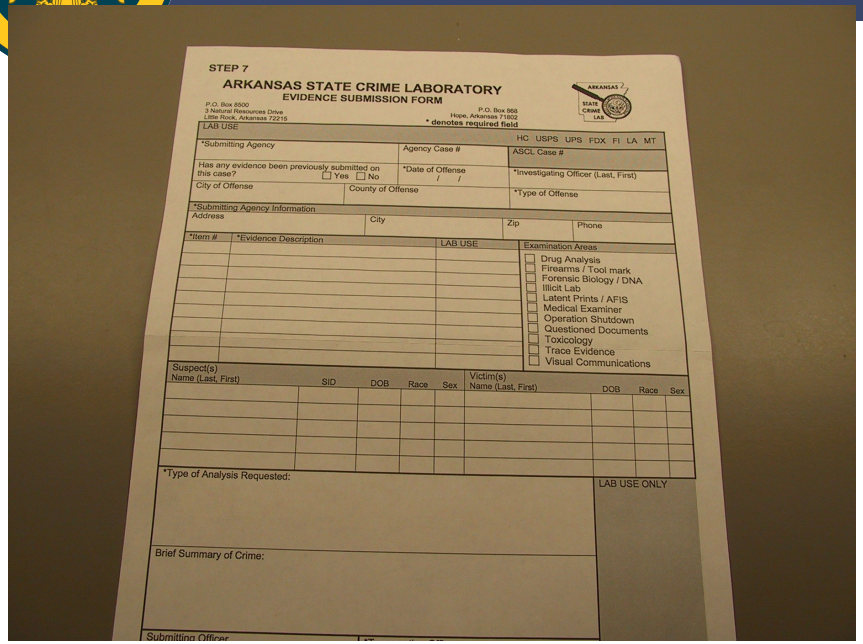

STEP 6
KNOWN BLOOD SAMPLE
PATIENT'S NAME:
DATE COLLECTED:
TIME:
am
pm
COLLECTED BY:
WAS SAMPLE COLLECTED?
YES
NO
IF NO, WHY NOT?
RE1AR: STEP6.2 5/98
DNA BLOOD STAIN CARD
NOTE
Do not touch the enclosed Blood Stain Card unless you are wearing gloves.
Patient's Name
312

STEP 5
ORAL SWABS AND SMEAR
PATIENT'S NAME:
DATE COLLECTED:
TIME:
am
pm
COLLECTED BY:
WAS SAMPLE COLLECTED?
YES
NO
IF NO, WHY NOT?
RE1AR: STEP5.2 5/98
6in (15.24 cm) 2 Applicators


STEP 2
PUBIC HAIR COMBINGS
PATIENT'S NAME:
DATE COLLECTED:
TIME:
am
pm
COLLECTED BY:
WAS SAMPLE COLLECTED?
YES
NO
IF NO, WHY NOT?
RE1AR: STEP2.1 2/96
SEAL


Single Tipped Applicators
Q-TIPS
KENDALL
6in (15.24 cm) 2 Applicators
STEP 3
VAGINAL/PENILE SWABS AND SMEAR
PATIENT'S NAME:
DATE COLLECTED:
TIME:
am
pm
COLLECTED BY:
WAS SAMPLE COLLECTED?
YES
NO
IF NO, WHY NOT?
RE1AR: STEP3.1 2/96


Single Tipped Applicators
Q-TIPS
KENDALL
6in (15.24 cm) 2 Applicators
STERILE R
STEP 4
RECTAL SWABS AND SMEAR
PATIENT'S NAME:
DATE COLLECTED:
TIME:
am
pm
COLLECTED BY:
WAS SAMPLE COLLECTED?
YES
NO
IF NO, WHY NOT?
RE1AR: STEP4.2 5/98



STEP 7

ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY
EVIDENCE SUBMISSION FORM

P.O. Box 8500
3 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72215

P.O. Box 966
Hope, Arkansas 71802

* denotes required field

LAB USE

HC USPS UPS FDX FI LA MT

*Submitting Agency | Agency Case # | ASCL Case #

Has any evidence been previously submitted on this case? ☐ Yes ☐ No | *Date of Offense / / | *Investigating Officer (Last, First)

City of Offense | County of Offense | *Type of Offense

*Submitting Agency Information
Address | City | Zip | Phone

*Item #	*Evidence Description	LAB USE

Examination Areas
- ☐ Drug Analysis
- ☐ Firearms / Tool mark
- ☐ Forensic Biology / DNA
- ☐ Illicit Lab
- ☐ Latent Prints / AFIS
- ☐ Medical Examiner
- ☐ Operation Shutdown
- ☐ Questioned Documents
- ☐ Toxicology
- ☐ Trace Evidence
- ☐ Visual Communications

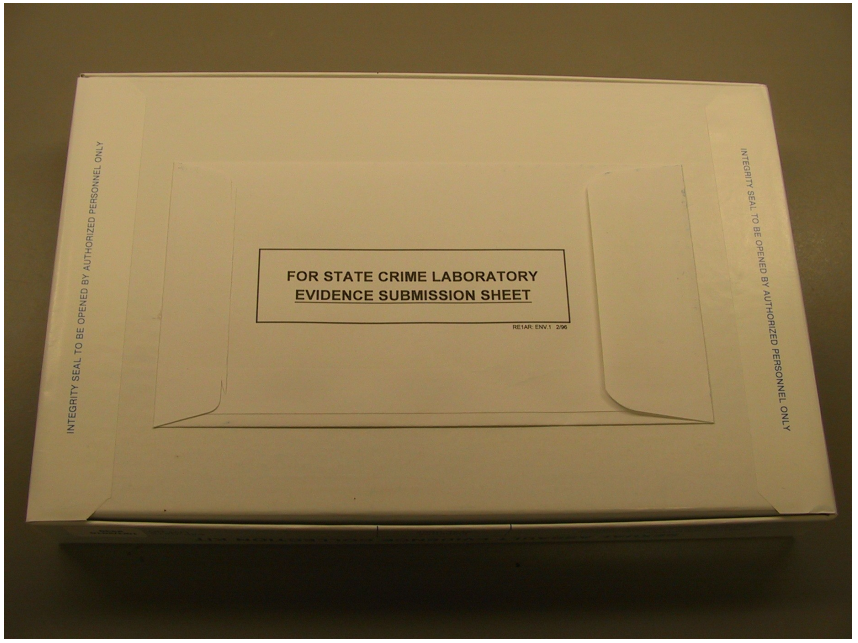
Suspect(s) Name (Last, First)	SID	DOB	Race	Sex	Victim(s) Name (Last, First)	DOB	Race	Sex

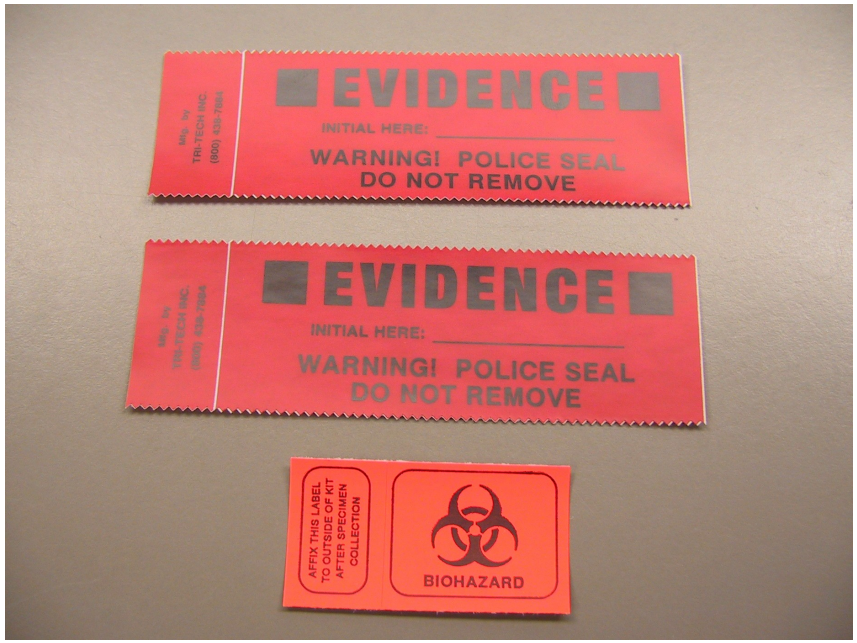
*Type of Analysis Requested:

LAB USE ONLY

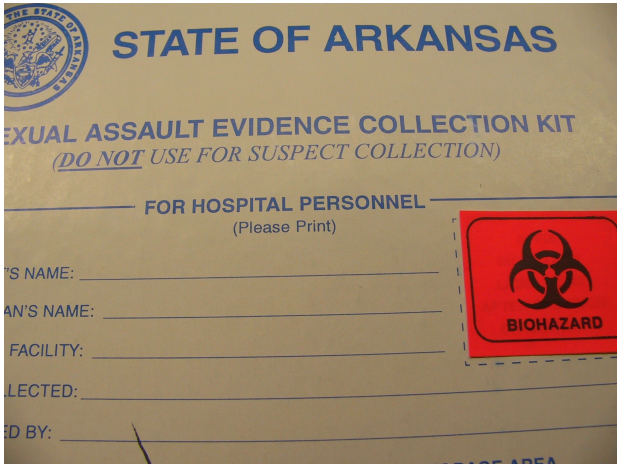
Brief Summary of Crime:

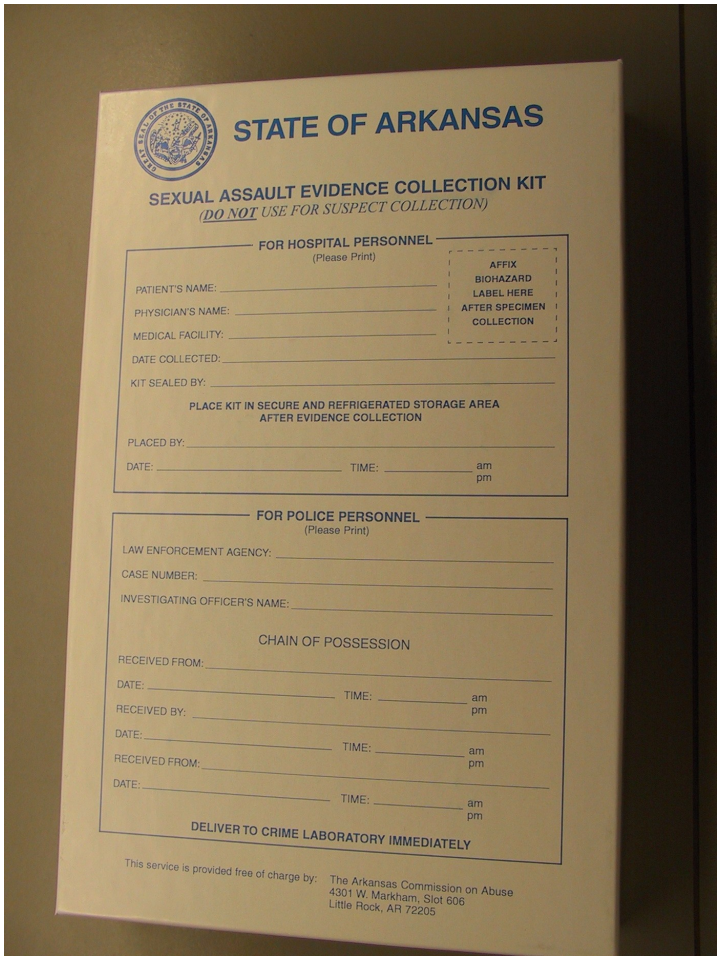
Submitting Officer


FOR STATE CRIME LABORATORY
EVIDENCE SUBMISSION SHEET
INTEGRITY SEAL TO BE OPENED BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
INTEGRITY SEAL TO BE OPENED BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY


EVIDENCE
INITIAL HERE:
WARNING! POLICE SEAL
DO NOT REMOVE
EVIDENCE
INITIAL HERE:
WARNING! POLICE SEAL
DO NOT REMOVE
AFFIX THIS LABEL TO OUTSIDE OF KIT AFTER SPECIMEN COLLECTION
BIOHAZARD

EVIDENCE SEAL HERE


STATE OF ARKANSAS
SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT
(DO NOT USE FOR SUSPECT COLLECTION)
FOR HOSPITAL PERSONNEL
(Please Print)
FACILITY:
BIOHAZARD



STATE OF ARKANSAS

SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT

(DO NOT USE FOR SUSPECT COLLECTION)

FOR HOSPITAL PERSONNEL
(Please Print)

AFFIX BIOHAZARD LABEL HERE AFTER SPECIMEN COLLECTION

PATIENT'S NAME: _____

PHYSICIAN'S NAME: _____

MEDICAL FACILITY: _____

DATE COLLECTED: _____

KIT SEALED BY: _____

PLACE KIT IN SECURE AND REFRIGERATED STORAGE AREA AFTER EVIDENCE COLLECTION

PLACED BY: _____

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ am pm

FOR POLICE PERSONNEL
(Please Print)

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY: _____

CASE NUMBER: _____

INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S NAME: _____

CHAIN OF POSSESSION

RECEIVED FROM: _____

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ am pm

RECEIVED BY: _____

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ am pm

RECEIVED FROM: _____

DATE: _____ TIME: _____ am pm

DELIVER TO CRIME LABORATORY IMMEDIATELY

This service is provided free of charge by: The Arkansas Commission on Abuse
4301 W. Markham, Slot 606
Little Rock, AR 72205

Wood's Lamp

Swab Dryer

Prophylaxis Treatment for STDs (2003 CDC Standards)

- Metronidazole 2 gm po

  Trichomoniasis (Trich) and Bacterial Vaginosis
- Rocephin 125 mg IM

  Gonnorrhea
- Azithromax 1 gm po

  Chlamydia and Syphyllis

Prophylaxis Treatment for Pregnancy

- Emergency Contraception 2 tab oval po now and 2 in 12 hours

Finishing the Examination

- Discharge Instructions
  - Counseling
  - HIV and Hepatitis testing
  - Warning signs and symptoms
  - Follow up care

Law enforcement information:

- The information needed may be different for different agencies.
- Name of the officer taking the report.
- The agency's name.
- The officers ID number.
- The agency's phone num
- The incident number.

Medical Report

- The medical report needs to be available to law enforcement and the forensic laboratory.
- These reports need to have very limited and controlled access.

Post Exam:

- Document all materials sent to forensic lab, including the clothing.
- Document all methods of exam used such as toluidine blue dye.
- Document all personnel involved in taking the history, performing the exam and handling the specimens at all times.

Discharge Instructions

- Victims are discharged with follow up with counseling services at Family Service Center.
- Victims are assisted with taxi to a safe place if needed.

Messages to our Youth